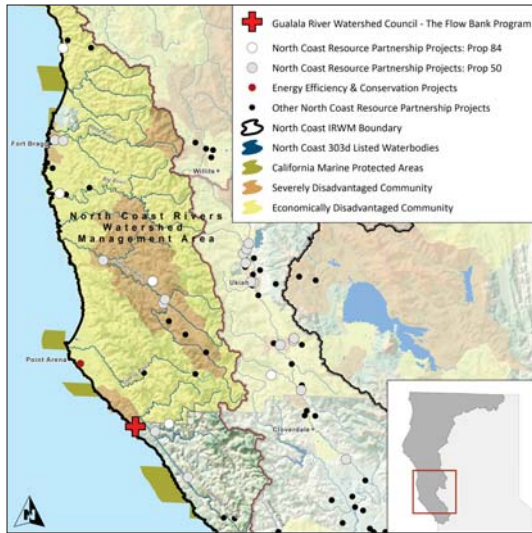


The Flow Bank Program — Phase II

GUALALA RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL



COMPLETION DATE

January 31, 2020

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

A pattern of low flows in the Gualala has caused areas of both main-stem and tributary reaches to dry up, leaving disconnected channels and poor water quality in the remaining reaches. Since the onset of the drought in 2012, creeks have not met minimum bypass flow requirements, severely impacting local water companies and triggering increased water costs to customers. Upland forests are extremely dry and fires are a nearly year-round threat.

PROJECT GOALS

- Protect salmonid habitat by reducing withdrawals
- Enhance community resiliency to climate change by providing knowledge and tools for adaptation to increased drought and fire events
- Improve economic vitality in the Gualala River watershed

THE SOLUTION

This project will reduce diversions in the Gualala by installing off-stream storage systems for the North Gualala Water Company (NGWC) (Mendocino County) and the Kashaia Tribe (Sonoma County), establishing a more reliable water supply for increasingly severe drought cycles. This project will also enhance the area's climate change resiliency and increase instream flow by providing two 55,000 gallon rainwater catchment tanks for the South Coast Fire Department (SCFD) for training and fire suppression, replacing their use of at least 110,000 gallons of potable water per year from the NGWC.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Project planning, design, and permitting are well underway, with some construction activities started in June 2017.

PROJECT BUDGET

IRWM funds:	\$ 493,254
Leveraged funds:	\$ 270,549
TOTAL	\$ 763,803

BENEFITS

Economic benefits

- An estimated \$1,531 per year for water supply produced through catchment systems and using alternative, non-salmonid bearing water sources
- Approximately \$50,400 every two years for avoided water shortage costs

- About \$4,960 in avoided electric costs due to installation of gravity-fed tanks, reducing electricity used for pumping

Water Quality

- Increased instream flow will reduce contaminant loads, increased Dissolved Oxygen levels and decrease water temperature

Water Supply

- Improved water supply reliability due to catchment tanks, recycled water use, and switching to non-anadromous streams

Habitat and Ecosystem function benefits

- Species protection for endangered coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) and steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and the federally Threatened tailed frog (*Ascaphus truei*) and California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*)

Cultural benefits

- Disaster preparedness due to increased training and readiness for fire suppression
- Conflict reduction due to a new water source, which will reduce conflict over withdrawals in the Gualala River system
- Climate mitigation and adaptation measures will enhance community resiliency and community capacity to respond to future challenges and threats

Jobs and Local Economic Benefits

- Over \$750,000 spent locally, using local supplies and labor when possible
- About 10 jobs created/maintained

NEXT STEPS

The Gualala River Watershed Council will continue to work with the local community to restore the natural balance of the watershed and preserve its environment from further degradation through its proven collaborative, inclusive approach to planning and implementation.

CONTACT

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NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP